January 7, 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR:     Distribution Email

FROM:                           Christine Caruso Magee
                                       Configuration Manager, NCEP Central Operations

SUBJECT:                      Scheduled Operational Changes and Upgrades for
                                       CPC, OPC, and WPC


**Climate Prediction Center**

The following accelerated items were implemented this past week:


RFC #552 – Fixed an erroneous line in the Forecast Consolidation code that caused graphics to not be produced. The correct line was uncommented,  and the incorrect line commented. Code tested successfully.  Implemented on December 28 at 1715Z.


RFC #554 - The Palmer graphics archiving process had a hardcoded year in the cp command to copy the Palmer graphic to the archives. This was replaced this with a year var created via the Linux date command.  Implemented on January 6 at 1500Z.

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The following will be implemented the week of January 11, 2016:

None

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The following RFCs are in progress:

None

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The following NCO RFCs to be implemented the week of January 11, 2016 may affect CPC:

RFC #1626 – Modify the user menus on the WCOSS Bastion hosts so that 'Luna' and 'Surge' are no longer options.  Users will have options for 'Phase 1',

'Phase 2', and 'Cray'. The Orlando Bastion will send users to Gyre/Surge and the Reston Bastion will send users to Tide/Luna. To be implemented on January 11 at 1500Z.

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The following NCO RFCs are in progress and may affect CPC:

None

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**Ocean Prediction Center**

The following accelerated items were implemented this past week:

RFC #553 - Update OPC's Top News section on the website to include a link to Scott Prosise's retirement announcement. Implemented on December 31 at 1330Z.

RFC #555 - The 'make_satellite.pl' script creates various satellite images for use via radiofax, on the OPC website and the TGFTP site. The images for these products were not updating (product degraded by old data). After the old data was cleaned up, the products were missed entirely. The source directory for the evnt06 and evnt18 images is being updated to point to the (updating) test image directory. When NCO/IDSB/Dataflow implements the permanent fix, this RFC will be backed out.  Implemented on January 6 at 1830Z.

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The following will be implemented the week of January 11, 2016:

RFC #558 - The commercial links page on the OPC website will be updated to add a link to Ocean-Pro Global Weather services. To be implemented on January 13 at 1200Z.

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The following RFCs are in progress:

None

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The following NCO RFCs to be implemented the week of January 11, 2016 may affect OPC:

RFC #1623 – NCOSRV Dataflow v2.14.2 - Modify SPIDER software on NCOSRV to add a new satellite image requested by OPC and cleanup satellite datasets that were restructured after the Fall upgrade.  To be implemented on January 11 at 1300Z.

RFC #1626 – Modify the user menus on the WCOSS Bastion hosts so that 'Luna' and 'Surge' are no longer options.  Users will have options for 'Phase 1', 'Phase 2', and 'Cray'.  The Orlando Bastion will send users to Gyre/Surge and the Reston Bastion will send users to Tide/Luna.  To be implemented on January 11 at 1500Z.

RFC #1631 – wave_multi_1 v3.2.9 - The Global Wave ("Multi 1") Model's point output data is being expanded to better specify the boundary for the local wave model in the Philadelphia region.  To be implemented on January 12 at 1330Z.

RFC #1634 – SREF v7.0.7 - Upgrade SREF to change the cloud ceiling height from Above Sea Level (ASL) back to Above Ground Level (AGL). Based on the recent feedback, forecasters indicate the change to ASL has inhibited their use of the probability of ceiling height exceeding certain thresholds because those thresholds are inherently AGL.  To be implemented on January 12 at 1500Z.

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The following NCO RFCs are in progress and may affect OPC:

None

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The following NCO RFCs, which may affect OPC, were approved  with an implementation date TBD:

RFC #1357 – RTOFS global v1.1.0 – Major upgrade of the Global RTOFS model.  See the TIN at:  http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/notification/tin15-36global-rtofsaaa.htm for details.  This was advertised as having an October 6 implementation date but this implementation is being postponed due to a delay in the Navy's HYCOM model upgrade.  Once the HYCOM upgrade is implemented, the Global RTOFS will be scheduled for implementation.  Notification will be given in advance so users may prepare for any changes which may affect them. This upgrade of the Global RTOFS was approved by the NCEP Director.

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**<u>Weather Prediction Center</u>**

<u>The following accelerated items were implemented this past week</u>:

None

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<u>The following will be implemented the week of January 11, 2016</u>:

RFC #556 - Add a DBNet alert to the 'wwd_mk6hgrb2' script to launch Winter Weather Desk (WWD) grib2 files for Snow and Ice Accumulations to HPCN. This will allow WWD forecasters to view forecast grids in GFE for comparison with ISC (intersite coordination) grids and collaboration with WFOs. To be implemented on January 12 at 1300Z.

RFC #557 - Add three new parameters (Precipitation Type, Precipitation Rate, and Precipitation Intensity) to mesonet data extraction script 'split_madis.ksh'. Add a color coded display to NMAP for the Precipitation Rate. This is for the upcoming Winter Weather Experiment. To be implemented on January 12 at 1400Z.

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<u>The following will be implemented the week of January 18, 2016</u>:

RFC #559 - The 2.5-km resolution Winter Weather Desk (WWD) land-water mask will force snowfall and/or ice accumulations to zero over off-shore waters along the U.S. west coast. To be implemented beginning on January 19 at 1200Z and should be completed by 2200Z on January 21.

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<u>The following RFCs are in progress</u>:

RFC #549 - Upgrade Operational SLR Script – The current interactive Snow to Liquid Ratio (SLR) script will be changed from using NAM Roebber SLR to using rime factor modified Roebber SLR and rime factor modified Baxter Climatology SLR. A CF cron script will compute the rime factor grids, and the current WWDSLR script will read the new data instead of the current Roeber only. Implementation began on January 4 at 1600Z and should be completed by January 18 at 2200Z.

RFC #551 – A WPC model evaluation script will be implemented. This script will compute forecast differences between the operational and parallel GFS models, which will then be displayed to forecasters for assistance in parallel evaluation. Implementation began on January 6 at 1600Z and should be completed by January 13 at 2200Z.

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The following NCO RFCs to be implemented the week of January 11, 2016 may affect WPC:

RFC #1626 – Modify the user menus on the WCOSS Bastion hosts so that 'Luna' and 'Surge' are no longer options. Users will have options for 'Phase 1', 'Phase 2', and 'Cray'. The Orlando Bastion will send users to Gyre/Surge and the Reston Bastion will send users to Tide/Luna. To be implemented on January 11 at 1500Z.

RFC #1633 – python-requests v2.6 – Install a python-requests package on 6 of WPC's Hydromet Testbed (HMT) machines. Python will be used to write a script to process snowfall observations for HMT's Winter Weather Experiment. To be implemented on January 12 at 1500Z.

RFC #1634 – SREF v7.0.7 - Upgrade SREF to change the cloud ceiling height from Above Sea Level (ASL) back to Above Ground Level (AGL). Based on the recent feedback, forecasters indicate the change to ASL has inhibited their use of the probability of ceiling height exceeding certain thresholds because those thresholds are inherently AGL. To be implemented on January 12 at 1500Z.

RFC #1636 – NAM_MOS v3.1.0 – Upgrade the NAM MOS to include:  a) updated equations for Snowfall Amount; b) updated equations for 6- and 12-h Thunderstorm Probability and 6- and 12-h severe weather; c) introduction of Thunderstorm Probabilities for Alaska MOS sites (no severe weather); d) new Precipitation Type equations for cool season (Sept 1 through May 30); e) with the addition of Precipitation Type, the MET message will now contain lines POZ - Probability of Freezing Precipitation,  POS - Probability of Snow, and  TYP - Categorical Precipitation Type; f) new job nam_mos_prep will ingest NAM AWIPS 151 GRIB2 files and will convert fields to TDLPACK on the new NAM archive grid (a subset of AWIPS 151). This job begins the "next gen" of the NAM MOS suite which will be structured similar to the GFS MOS.  To be implemented on January 13 at 1200Z.

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The following NCO RFCs are in progress and may affect WPC:

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Please note that security-related RFCs are never listed in the RFC memo.

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---- OPERATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS ----

The CPC/OPC/WPC Configuration Management documents are available  at
https://sites.google.com/a/noaa.gov/nws-ncep-nco-cm/.

Please review these documents if you have questions prior to submitting
changes for CPC/OPC/WPC configurable items.